

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-11 and 18-20 is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 18 has been rewritten independent form as new Claim 21. Claims 19-20 have been rewritten as Claims 22 and 23, dependent from Claim 21.

As to the sole outstanding rejection, which concerns Claim 17, Applicants have amended the claim to distinguish more clearly from the Parker et al. article. Specifically, Claim 17 has been amended to recite that the solid semiconductor has a passive surface including nanoclusters of constituent atoms of the semiconductor.

It is apparent that Claim 17, as amended, distinguishes from Parker's teaching of gold cluster deposition on a silicon<sup>dioxide</sup> substrate.

Accordingly, this application is in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to

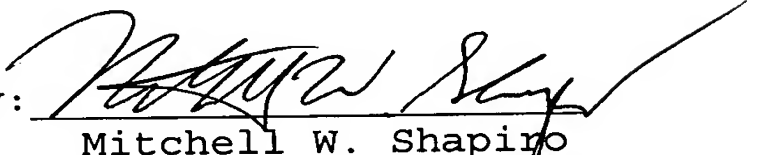
credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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